REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1 through 20 were rejected.

Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 10, 13 through 17 and 20 have been amended.

Discussion of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (1) as being unpatentable over by USPN 5,657,122 (Curbelo). Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the rejection. Below, Applicant points out subject matter in each of the independent claims not disclosed or suggested by Curbelo. On this basis, Applicant believes all the pending claims are allowable.

Discussion of independent claim 1

Claim 1 sets out a method for performing an alignment check of a wavelength meter. No such method is disclosed or suggested by Curbelo. That is, Curbelo does not disclose or suggest performing an alignment check of a wavelength meter.

The wavelength meter set out in claim 1 of the present case analyzes an interference pattern created by a reference signal with a known wavelength and a source signal with an unknown wavelength. Such a wavelength meter is not disclosed or suggested by Curbelo.

In Curbelo, a beam splitter 15 is used to split monochromatic beams 30a-c. See Curbelo at column 4, lines 4 through 8. Curbelo does not disclose or suggest a wavelength meter that analyzes an interference pattern created by a reference signal with a known wavelength and a source signal with an unknown wavelength.

In claim 1, the reference signal travels in a reference signal path and the source signal travels in a source signal path. In (b) of claim 1, the source signal is replaced with the reference signal so that the reference signal is placed into the source signal path of the wavelength meter. This is not disclosed or suggested by Curbelo. In Curbelo, there is no source signal path. Rather, there is only a path used for monochromatic beams 30a-c. Beam splitter 15 is used to split monochromatic beams 30a-c. See Curbelo at column 4, lines 4 through 8. In Curbelo, there is no source signal path down which a source signal with an unknown wavelength travels. Further, Curbelo does not disclose or suggest replacing such a source signal with a reference signal in order to perform an alignment check of a wavelength meter, as set out in claim 1.

Discussion of independent claim 7

Claim 7 sets out a wavelength meter. The wavelength meter includes a signal source that places a source signal with an unknown wavelength on the source signal path. This is not disclosed or suggested by Curbelo. In Curbelo, beam expander 25 use a laser 23 to produce monochromatic beams 30a-c. It appears correct operation of Curbelo is based on the wavelength of

monochromatic beams 30a-c all being known. Curbelo does not disclose or suggest a signal source that places a source signal with an unknown wavelength on a source signal path.

Claim 7 also sets out that the wavelength meter has a reference source that places a reference signal with a known wavelength on the reference signal path. The reference source is able to also place the reference signal on the source signal path in order to perform an alignment check of the wavelength meter. This is not disclosed or suggested by Curbelo. In Curbelo, a beam splitter 15 is used to split monochromatic beams 30a-c. See Curbelo at column 4, lines 4 through 8. In Curbelo, there is no source signal path down which a source signal with an unknown wavelength travels. Further, Curbelo does not disclose or suggest a reference source placing a reference signal on such a source signal path in order to perform an alignment check of the wavelength meter, as set out in claim 7.

Discussion of independent claim 14

Claim 14 sets out a wavelength meter. The wavelength meter includes a means for placing a source signal that places a source signal with an unknown wavelength on the source signal path means. This is not disclosed or suggested by Curbelo. In Curbelo, beam expander 25 uses a laser 23 to produce monochromatic beams 30a-c. It appears correct operation of Curbelo is based on the wavelength of monochromatic beams 30a-c all being known. Curbelo does

not disclose or suggest a means for placing a source signal that places a source signal with an unknown wavelength on a source signal path means.
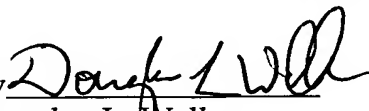
Claim 14 also sets out that the wavelength meter has a means for placing a reference signal with a known wavelength on the reference signal path means. The means for placing a reference signal is also for placing the reference signal on the source signal path means in order to perform an alignment check of the wavelength meter. This is not disclosed or suggested by Curbelo. In Curbelo, a beam splitter 15 is used to split monochromatic beams 30a-c. See Curbelo at column 4, lines 4 through 8. In Curbelo, there is no source signal path means down which a source signal with an unknown wavelength travels. Further, Curbelo does not disclose or suggest a means for placing a reference signal on such a source signal path means in order to perform an alignment check of the wavelength meter, as set out in claim 14.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this Amendment has placed the present application in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 2, 2006
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